

marks, we can safely add that this edition of 'English Botany' is really deserving of support, and should be obtained by all botanists to whom five shillings a month (a very cheap rate of charge) is not too much cost.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 25, 1862.—E. W. H. Holdsworth, Esq., F.Z.S., in the Chair.

NOTICE OF A NEW SPECIES OF DOGANIA FROM ASIA.

By DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

We have received for the Museum a dried and varnished specimen of a *Dogania*, unfortunately without any special habitat, which appears to be distinct from *Dogania subplana*. It is scarcely two-thirds the size of the specimen which we received from General Hardwicke, which agrees with the type specimen of Geoffroy, on which the species was originally described; yet the dorsal shield is more ossified, the ribs more expanded, and the surface of the bone of the back and chest more granulated. This leads me to believe that it must be of a distinct species; I shall therefore give diagnoses of the two kinds.

DOGANIA SUBPLANA.

The first odd transverse bone of the dorsal shield smooth, with a narrow band of granules on the middle of the hinder edge. The first, fifth, sixth, and seventh ribs narrow, the last being the narrowest and shortest; the second, third, and fourth ribs broader, dilated at the outer end, the width being about one-third of the length. The sternum smooth, with a small, narrow, oblong, longitudinal granular patch on the hinder edge of the transverse bone.

Hab. India, Singapore?

The dorsal disk of this species is well figured by Cuvier, Oss. Fos. iii. t. 13. f. 5.

Mr. Swinhoe informs me that this animal is common in the rivers of China and Formosa; that it is known to the Europeans there by the name of "Terapan," most likely a corruption of the American word "Terrapin," and is esteemed a great delicacy by the Chinese, and fetches a good price in the market to make soup.

The head of the older specimen is not so large compared with the body. The animal has the power of drawing its head within the skin of the neck.

DOGANIA GUENTHERI.

The odd transverse bone in front of the dorsal shield entirely covered with granulations, like the ribs. The ribs all nearly similar in width (nearly four times as long as wide), and very slightly and gradually dilated at the outer end; the last rib the smallest, narrow and short compared with the others. The hinder sternal bones broad,

with a large oblong patch of granulations at the inner hinder end. The labral bones with a large indeterminate group of tubercles near the suture that divides them.

Hab. India, — ?

I have named this species after my friend Dr. Albert Günther, one of my colleagues in the Museum, who has prepared such admirable catalogues of the Snakes and Fishes in the Museum Collection. He first drew my attention to the specimen, and considers it as indicating a very distinct and interesting species. It is to be regretted that the head is so dried and covered with varnish that it is impossible to see the distribution of the colours with any certainty; for I have found that the distribution of the colours on the head and exposed parts of the body affords one of the best and most prominent characters for the distinction of the species of this family, and one, unlike the form of the bones, that is not at all, or but slightly, altered by the age of the specimens.

ON THE BREEDING OF A WEST-INDIAN TORTOISE IN THIS COUNTRY. BY WILLIAM WILLIAMS (OF TREGULLOW).

A female Land-Tortoise, brought from the West Indies and given to Mrs. Williams's mother upwards of fifty years ago, was then about the size of a watch. It has now been in the garden at Tregullow about thirty-two years. Four years ago another Tortoise was obtained, which turned out to be a male; they were allowed to roam in the garden at their will. In 1860 some eggs were found, but, from insufficient heat, they were not hatched.

About the 25th of July last, the gardener, on passing a south border, observed the female Tortoise making a pit with her hind legs in a very peculiar manner. On watching her, he found she had made a hole some four inches deep, quite flat at the bottom. On returning, in about five minutes, he found she had deposited six eggs, and was in the act of covering them with earth. He immediately removed them, in a flowerpot-stand about two inches deep, filled with white sand, to a pine-pit, and placed them on a tan-bed. On the 19th of October last he observed two of the eggs had been hatched; and on looking around he found, much to his astonishment, two young live Tortoises. The eggs were about the size of those of a pigeon, and much the same in appearance.

The young ones are kept in a wooden box (in a pine-pit) with some earth and moss, under which they nestle. They are fond of lettuces and strawberries, but do not eat much. They appear quite well and lively, moving about briskly; they are now a little larger than half-crowns.

The eggs were not disturbed while in the pine-pit, the temperature of which during the time they were there was from 85° to 90° by day, and from 65° to 70° by night.

The female measures 12 inches long, by 12¼ inches wide over the back; the male 8 inches long, by 8½ inches wide over the back.